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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, teach us Your wisdom and discipline. Because of Your wisdom, may our lawmakers have insights that guide them on the path of truth. Give them a passion to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. Because of Your gift of discipline, may our Senators grow in grace and in a knowledge of You, supplementing their faith with generous provisions of moral excellence, self-control, and patient endurance.

Lord, keep us all from deliberate sin so that the words of our lips and the reflections of our hearts will please You.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 13, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a

Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate Commerce Committee, on which you sit, came together on a bipartisan basis to advance the Endless Frontier Act by a vote of 24 to 4—24 to 4.

We are now one step closer to passing a bill that will keep our country one step ahead in science and technology for decades to come. It is my intention for the Senate to take up the Endless Frontier Act next week in a package with legislation to strengthen our alliances and partnerships; invest in the American semiconductor industry; ensure that China pays a price for its predatory actions; and boost advanced manufacturing, innovation, and critical supply chains.

For decades, American prosperity has been anchored by our unmatched capacity for innovation and invention in science and in technology. American innovation propelled American industry, and an American workforce brought those innovations to the global economy.

But, unfortunately, Federal underinvestment in sciences has seen our country slip, exposing critical weak

spots in our economy. If we don't fix them, we will no longer be the No. 1 economic leader in the world in the decade to come. So it is an imperative that we do this. This is for our future—our future for jobs, our future for economic leadership, and our future for world leadership.

It all boils down to science, something that was ignored, unfortunately, by the last administration, but, fortunately, bipartisan unity in this Senate is bringing us back on the page that we need to do science.

The Endless Frontier Act would right the ship by making one of the largest investments in American innovation in generations, allowing the United States to outcompete countries like China, create more good-paying jobs, and harden our economic and our national security as well because this bill is vital to national security as well as to economic security.

I want to really applaud Chairwoman CANTWELL, Ranking Member WICKER, and my partner in the Endless Frontier Act Senator YOUNG, all of whom worked hard, long, diligently, and effectively, in a bipartisan fashion, to move this legislation through regular order. The full Senate will consider and, I believe, should finish this important legislation before the end of the month with strong bipartisan support.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on judges and on nominees, over the past several months, the Senate has moved quickly to confirm nominees to serve in President Biden's Cabinet and throughout his administration. The Senate also has a constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on the President's judicial nominations, and the Senate will begin to fill judicial vacancies very soon.

This morning, the Judiciary Committee is holding the first markup for a slate of President Biden's judicial

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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